Closed Textile Mills in Rajasthan

1811. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of textile mills lying closed at present in Rajasthan with specific reasons for closure;

(b) what is the number of labour thrown out of employment due to closure; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to reopen the textile mills and make them viable?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The number of cotton textile mills closed in Rajasthan as on 31st May, 1987, was 5. The reasons for closure were financial difficulties, labour trouble/lock out, disconnection of power due to non-payment of electricity bills, etc.

(b) The number of employees affected by these closures was 1,177.

(c) Government have set up a Nodal Agency to determine whether sick textile mills are potentially viable or not. The Nodal Agency evolves and manages rehabilitation packages in respect of units found to be viable. In addition, Govt. have set up a Textile Modernisation Fund to finance the modernisation needs of textile mills

Pak's Nuclear programme

1812. PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was U.S. Government's response when Indian Ambassador P. K. Kaul met Under Secretary of State Michael Armacost recently to convey once again India's serious concern over Pakistan's nuclear programe; and

(b) whether the U S. Government gave any indication of its thinking on the issue of stopping military aid to Pakistan in accordance with its own laws in view of positive evidence about Pakistan making a nuclear bomb and exposure of two Pakistanis trying to acquire illegally bomb-related equipment and materials and smuggling them to Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The US Government maintain that US assistance reduces significantly the risk that Pakistan would acquire nuclear weapons. However, in public the US Government has voiced its concerns about the overall nature and direction of Pakistan's nuclear programme and about Pakistan's ongoing unsafeguarded uranium enrichment activity.

(b) The US Government has only stated that the US Administration is taking seriously its responsibilities under U.S. law.

Sub-committee on restructuring of Handloom Developing schemes

1813. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the composition of the Sub-Committee on restructuring of handloom development schemes and programmes;

(b) whether the activity of the Sub-Committee covers both the organised and unorganised sectors of the handloom weavers; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?